

**FIGURE 2**

- One-quarter of U.S. employment was found in the 14 occupations listed.
- Ten of these occupations paid below the U.S. median annual wage of \$32,390.
- Many of the largest occupations are found in a wide variety of industries.

### Employment and median wages for the largest occupations in the United States, May 2008

Occupation	Employment	Percent of U.S. employment	Median wage	
			Hourly	Annual
Retail salespersons	4,426,280	3.27	\$9.86	\$20,510
Cashiers	3,545,610	2.62	8.49	17,660
Office clerks, general	2,906,600	2.15	12.17	25,320
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	2,708,840	2.00	7.90	16,430
Registered nurses	2,542,760	1.88	30.03	62,450
Waiters and waitresses	2,371,750	1.75	8.01	16,660
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	2,335,510	1.73	10.89	22,660
Customer service representatives	2,233,270	1.65	14.36	29,860
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	2,145,320	1.59	10.31	21,450
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,873,390	1.39	10.00	20,800
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	1,872,070	1.38	13.96	29,050
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,855,010	1.37	15.63	32,510
General and operations managers	1,697,690	1.26	44.02	91,570
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	1,672,580	1.24	17.92	37,270